

ΦΑΚ

NEWSREEL

Winter/Spring '95

Featuring:

- Reports from the house officers
- Information regarding the Smoker
- Active updates, as written by their little brothers

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

STATE OF THE HOUSE

Greetings once again to all alumni and friends. The second semester is under way, and the men of Phi Alpha Kappa have returned to Ann Arbor to pick up with their studies. The house is holding up pretty well. We are continually making small repairs, but, unlike last semester, we've seemed to evade major repairs. (Knock on wood - preferably Φ AK.) Anyway, we do have a few requests. If anyone has a lawnmower you'd like to donate, we desperately need a new one! Other things we could use is a new vacuum and possibly a snow blower. That last one was handed in by the outdoor crew -- the rest of us don't seem to care either way.

The addition of two new pledges after the break (and possibly a third on the way) brings the pledge class count up to eight. Except for a little attitude adjustment needed by a couple of the younger pledges, they are fitting into the house just fine. (The actives just can't wait until Hell Week!) They will make fine additions to Phi Alpha Kappa. We do ask that you keep us informed of any people interested in living at the House. Speaking of pledging and Hell Week, one of the guys in the House found a few movie reels in the attic about a month ago. We watched them recently, and got to see just what Hell Week was all about during the early '60s through the early '70s! By the way, what were those things you dangled into the pledges mouths?

The rest of the "going-ons" in the house have been covered by the other officers. Joel has covered the maintenance of the house, Mike the kitchen, Greg covered recruiting, and Dirk has handled the money situation. Thanks guys. Thanks also to Jason Holstege, the editor of this newsreel.

We are all keeping busy with our studies, plans for spring break, upcoming Φ AK events, and playing on the "Dutch" intramural teams. However, we always welcome visits from alumni, family, and friends. Take note of the date of the Smoker (Vice President's Report). We hope to see you there! Thank you for all your prayers and support.

Steve DeHorn
President

Vice-President's Report

Once again winter is upon us and all is well with the men of Phi Alpha Kappa. Recruiting is going smoothly so far, except Grand Rapids Community College still doesn't remember us ever setting up

a table there. I would greatly appreciate any assistance, whether it be putting in a word to the dean or giving us a name to contact.

To help boost waning membership, I have been busy recruiting a lame duck pledge class. We currently have one lame duck, but two to three more may join us before the first week of February. Currently I have a good sized list of prospective members, but, as always, we need more names. Next semester we might have as many as 15 openings, which is substantially more than what we have experienced over the past four years. I will be recruiting at Hope on February 9 and at Calvin on March 2. In addition, I have contacted leaders in Inter-varsity and several counselors from southwestern Michigan high schools. I have given our house flyer a more contemporary form so that it may better represent to prospective pledges what the house is like today.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite each of you to the annual Φ AK Smoker. The banquet will be held on Friday, March 10, at the Grand Rapids Airport Hilton in the Wolverine Room. At 5:30 p.m. we will be holding an alumni board meeting. The social hour begins at 6:30 p.m., and dinner will start at 7:30 p.m. with a program to follow. Please tell me if you are planning to attend.

Once again, if you know or learn of anyone planning to attend the University of Michigan this next fall, please inform me. My phone number is (313) 741-7499.

Gregory T. Quist
Vice-President

Business Manager's Report

We're well past the halfway point of the year and the House has been surviving great. We're still in as bad of a financial condition as ever, but we're trying to make do. We were underfilled by three people first semester, and we are underfilled by five people this semester. That may not sound like a lot, but it represents over \$7000 in lost income for the House. We've all been biting the bullet somewhat, however, and not spending what little money we have too frivolously. It still remains impossible to get the members to turn off room lights, TVs, etc. when not in use though. But I do my best without trying to sound too much like my own parents. I guess it's good training for my own future fatherhood. Nonetheless, we still remain in a pretty precarious financial position. We

are doing our best to maintain the House to a level our Alumni would expect, but it gets difficult when the funds aren't there to back it. Any help we could receive in the way of donations, supplies or equipment would be greatly appreciated. But most importantly, we need to fill the House in the future! Please recommend your alma mater to any men you know of coming to University of Michigan, anywhere from Freshman (or at P.C. U of M, First Year Student) to Graduate student. And as always, please feel free to come back and visit any time you like!

Note: We are also trying to replace damaged or missing House pictures for our halls. We currently need 1966-67, 68-69, 69-70, 74-75, and 75-76. If you have any of these pictures that we could borrow and copy, please call Dirk at (313) 998-2519. Get your picture back on the wall!

Dirk Bakker
Business Manager

Steward's Report

Greetings alum's and active members. My name is Michael Buitendorp and I was recently elected to the steward position this January. I am taking over for Derk Walkotten so that he can devote more time to his studies. As with the business side of things at ΦAK the kitchen is also experiencing a bit of financial difficulties due to a low number of active members. However I cannot think of a better way of slipping into the red than eating some fried chicken prepared from our excellent cook and surrogate mother Evelyn. Another reason for our shortage of funds is that the kitchen has had to make a number of capital improvements such as a new dishwasher preheater, garbage disposal, and freezer. Besides this, one of our refrigerators gave up the ghost recently and we are looking to replace it with a residential model. So if anyone knows of a second hand refrigerator that is looking to do some much needed service at ΦAK, give me a call at (313) 662-5638.

Other major news from the kitchen is that since the alumni's plans for enclosing the porch fell through (because as a 'historic building' the house is not allowed to change the outside appearance even a little bit) the kitchen has moved up to the number one spot for renovation. This means that this summer the kitchen will be getting much needed new countertops and cabinets which all past members will be able to inspect at next alumni day.

Michael Buitendorp
Steward

Sergeant's Report

Dear Φ AK Alumni,

I encourage you to come and visit the house you spent many wonderful years in. Although your glorious memories are a hard act to follow, I hope when you do visit you find the condition of the house to be as good or better than you remember. Over the last few years there have been many efforts to restore portions of the house to a similar state as it looked before the many years of wear and tear had taken their toll. The next major project on the agenda is the renovation of the kitchen. This project is still in the preliminary stages, and talks between myself, the alumni board, and contracting groups are currently ongoing. This will be a major undertaking, but a necessary one, and one that will make a great improvement to the house.

The landscaping in the front of the house is another area that could use some restoration efforts. I recently looked at a picture in the 35th anniversary book and was surprised to see how nice the shrubs and trees looked. Over the years since that picture was taken the plant life has flourished and become imposing on the facade of the house. This brings me to a request: if anyone has recently purchased a new lawn mower and would be able to donate the old one to the house, someone here would be glad to pick it up from you if it's functional. You can call the house at (313) 761-5491 if you can help us out. Thanks, and I hope to see you soon.

Joel Ball
Sergeant

Social Stuff

Second semester is under way, and that means another semester full of house events. Our activities got under way with "movie night" where the house members got together to watch lost Phi Alpha Kappa classics (in the attic for all these years) on the 8 mm movie projector. The favorites included a film of a special week in 1962 at Phi Alpha Kappa when pledges were honored and a movie called "Vampire Army", or something like that. Besides the haircuts, it was nice to see that not a whole lot has changed at Φ AK in the past years. In February the house is going to be participating in Whirlyball out in Ypsilanti, and later on in March we've scheduled our annual Reno night party. Later on in April, Φ AK house members will be in

Detroit at the Renaissance center for our Spring Banquet - and that will conclude the social calendar for the 1995 winter term.

Thanks to some high level connections with the ticket department we've been able to secure football tickets for the homecoming game next year for ΦAK alumni/family day. The date of that game is October 28, and we'll be sending out more information during the early summer months.

Dave Betten
Matt Brooks
Social Co-Chairs

Sports Report

The Dutch teams are at it again. They are taking to both the hardwood and the ice during the months of January and February. During March, they will be busy playing indoor soccer and volleyball.

The basketball team is playing surprisingly well this year, winning all three regular season games. The team consists of a good balance of veterans and several pledges and figures to do well in the upcoming playoffs.

Last fall, Phi Alpha Kappa members voted to form an inaugural broomball team, in only its second year as an intramural sport, and to only have one basketball team. Since only a few members have ever played the sport before, the team is hoping to have a lot of fun while not anticipating great success. For those of you who don't know, broomball is basically the same as ice hockey without the skates.

The big brother/little brother pool tournament and the dart tournament have both concluded, and the championship game in the ping pong tournament is pending.

To recap fall sports: the Dutch once again played in the Oosterbowl this year, but fell in the title game. We now have the same problem that the Wolverines have: our quarterback is graduating. After four years of leading the Dutch to great success, Steve DeHorn is leaving us. So as you scour the countryside in search of perspectives, make sure you look for a quarterback.

Matt Osenga
Athletic Chair

ATTENTION ALUMNI!

The Annual Φ AK

SMOKER

will be held

MARCH 10

at the

GRAND RAPIDS AIRPORT HILTON

**4747 28th St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49512**

On the itinerary for the evening:

- 5:30 p.m.: Alumni Board Meeting**
- 6:30 p.m.: Social Hour**
- 7:30 p.m.: Dinner (with program to follow)**

See the Vice-President's report for further details!

Active Updates

Currently Φ AK's only med student, Dirk Bakker calls Grand Haven, Michigan, home. He graduated with a BSE in mechanical engineering from Calvin College. Following in the footsteps of so many other engineers, Dirk decided that engineering just wasn't good enough for him. Enrollment in med school here at U of M soon followed. You might think he spends most of his time practicing to be an orthopedic surgeon, but he can usually be found around the house stealing light bulbs. After five years in the house, he has cut the electric bill by 205%. When he can, Dirk spends his free time biking and cleaning up after Hershey. His girlfriend Janella is so quiet that we never know how much time they actually spend together.

Originally from Muskegon, Steve DeHorn went to Hope College in Holland, Michigan. After taking a few engineering classes there, he transferred to U of M where he graduated with a BSE in mechanical engineering. He is currently taking graduate classes and will graduate with his Master's degree in the spring. In his fourth year at the house, Steve has proven to be a capable president. No one is quite sure who was president before, but we don't really care either. He has proven instrumental in defending the house turrets from gargoyles, and we're not sure who will fill this crucial role when Steve is gone. Steve is a man with a mission: every house member should be able to walk down the hall without the threat of injury from debris. Steve does have one notable flaw: when he golfs, he has a terrible slice. His vigilant practice has improved his drive, but he continues to yell "FORE!" and play off the adjacent fairway.

Phil Willink is one of the few people in the House not native to Michigan. He is originally from Yarmouth, Maine and he is currently working toward his Ph.D. in Biology. His interests in the field include suckers (the fish he's studying for his thesis, not the candy) and future professorship at any university that will have him. His personal interests include "outdoors stuff", television, and science fiction. He could also probably name every "Star Trek: The Next Generation" episode by title if you give him the general plot.

Adam Johnson is in his fifth year at Φ AK as he works toward his Ph.D. in Biochemistry. Originally from Muskegon, A.J. (as we like to call him) enjoys tennis, biking, and his stereo with which he listens to classical music, preferably Mozart. He would like to visit Sweden or Ireland, if he could, to learn more about his ancestry. Right now, however, A.J. will continue his

education for about another year and hopes to obtain a job in medical research. We look forward to calling him Dr. A.J.

Gregory Quist, originally from Grandville, Michigan, continues his quest at U of M for his degree in Mechanical Engineering. In his fourth year here at the house, Greg currently serves as our Vice President. His interests include computers, basketball and percussion, which explains his last three years in the Michigan Marching Band playing the cymbals. Go BLUE! His hopes for the future include attending the University of Arizona to obtain his Master's degree, building his own house, and most importantly for the near future, getting an engineering summer job.

Steffen (Sid) Genthe originates from none other than Grand Rapids. In his second year at the house, he is currently majoring in chemistry and cellular molecular biology. After a hard day in class Sid loves to wind down by taking a huge bite of baby Swiss cheese and guzzling down a Guinness draft beer. When he isn't listening to music, smoking with the door open, or polishing his Mercedes Benz, he assumes the role as the house's secret agent. Every weekend he drives his spy car to Grand Rapids where he works on a new covert operation classified as GIRLFRIEND.

Eric Strom hails from the muddy town of Santa Barbara. In his fourth year at the house, Eric enjoys backpacking, British cars, and other "cool stuff". After receiving his degree in historical linguistics last spring he has spent this year working in the linguistics department. Eric plans to return to California next fall and enter into law school, thus becoming another parasite upon the justice system of the United States of America. While attending law school, he will also stalk the alternative singer/pianist Tori Amos, because if he can't have her, NOBODY CAN!?!

Matt Osenga is a sophomore majoring in Chemical Engineering. Matt hails from Wyoming and graduated from Calvin Christian High School in '93. He just recently celebrated his 20th birthday, making me, his little brother, the last remaining teenager in the house. I have followed in my big brother's footsteps as this year's Phi Alpha Kidda. Only one more year until Matt can go hang out at the bar with the rest of the house. But until then, Matt feels content with spending his free time in the Upper Triple or downstairs in the TV room, watching Beavis and Butthead, or anything else that happens to be on. You see, Matt is Dutch, like most of us here at Phi Alpha Kappa, and he sees no reason to pay for cable in his own room when he can watch it for free elsewhere.

Derk Walkotten is in his second year at the house, after transferring from Calvin College where he ran cross country. Derk is majoring in architecture and is currently trying to get accepted by Michigan's Architecture Graduate School. But Derk won't be returning to the house next year - he has found someone else to spend the rest of his life with. You see, Derk is engaged, and is planning to get married this August, and since his fiancée' Renee' can't live in the house with him, he has been forced to move out. Derk would have liked to invite everyone in the house to the reception, but as he so eloquently said at one of our house meetings, "It's not up to me." Derk was also our house steward for the first semester, and he worked diligently at finding a new cook to replace Kay, last year's cook who quit this summer. Derk put a lot of time and effort into getting rid of all the kinks a new cook brings with her, and he felt that his studies were suffering, so he resigned after this semester, letting Mike Buitendorp take his place.

Todd Ockaskis is in his third year at the house, where he too, is studying architecture. Being an engineer myself, I'm still wondering how two of my three big brothers ended up being architects. Considering over half of the house seems to be engineers, that seems like a rather odd coincidence. Todd was born and raised in Jenison, about two miles from my house. Todd went to Jenison H.S., home of the Wildcats and attractive cheerleaders. If anyone in the house wants a good deal on any computer software, or for that matter anything to do with computers, Todd is the person they usually go to - that is if they can find him. Like Derk, Todd is not only engaged, but he's already married. Todd got married last summer, but while he is going to school, his wife is back in Grand Rapids. So like any good husband would, Todd is gone most weekends visiting the ol' ball and chain.

Michael Buitendorp is a three-and-a-half year veteran of Phi Alpha Kappa. An architecture major, Mike spent last summer living in Italy studying the profession. "They have, uh, some old buildings there, or something," he said. Mike enjoys hammering on scrap metal, drag racing Todd Ockaskis in his sporty Dodge Caravan SE, and performing his duties as steward of the kitchen. He claims that picking up European women on trains is easy if you know how to draw really flattering characatures.

Dave Betten is enjoying his second year in the house and, of course, his first year as an active. His packed schedule includes hiking, candle-burning, and switching long-distance phone companies. Dave is especially proud of his recent role in the movie "Dumb and Dumber" (which was he?),

although dodging throngs of admiring women has become a daily hassle. Academics remain a priority, as Dave is a pre-med student majoring in biology. Dave hails from sunny Kalamazoo, Michigan, the reputed watering hole of none other than Elvis Presley.

As a fourth-year member of ΦAK, Jeremy Frens serves as the Secretary of the house while completing his studies to become a Doctor of Pharmacy. A product of Fremont, Michigan, Jeremy attended Calvin College for four years and majored in music. His musical abilities are often made evident just before the dinner hour here at ΦAK, when strains of one of Bach's "Prelude and Fugues" can be heard coming from the piano in the living room. Jeremy's interests include playing the pipe organ, traveling, and sampling fine wines and gourmet coffee. Over the last year, Jeremy has become a major fan of "Star Trek", and he can frequently be found in his bedroom issuing commands via his communicator ("Beam me up, Scotty! There's no intelligent life down here! ") to another Trekker in the house.

Ryan Parks hails from Grand Rapids and has been a member of ΦAK for all three years of his college career here at U of M. While his studies in Industrial and Operations Engineering keep him very busy, Ryan also finds time to fulfill his duties as a Pledge Co-Chairman. In his spare time, Ryan enjoys watching college sports, playing on the Dutch intramural teams, and totally destroying Matt (Brooks) in a friendly game of pool downstairs. He especially excels on the Dutch intramural football and basketball teams, as one pledge has noted with the following exclamation: "He's AWESOME, baby - just awesome!" Of course, he does "awesome" in sports because he's so "ripped" from working out at the rec building about every other hour of the day with Matt.

In his second year at ΦAK, Matt Brooks continues on in his pursuit of a degree in Nursing while serving as one of the house's Social Co-Chairmen. Originally from Comstock Park, Matt graced the campus of Grand Rapids Community College for two years before coming to the U of M. His interests include fishing, watching college basketball, and totally destroying Ryan in a friendly game of hoops at the rec building. He also boards two other "friends" in his room here at ΦAK: his pet boa constrictor, Simon (he's not THAT big....yet), and a recently-obtained iguana named Augustus (from the Latin for "majestic" or "magnificent") or just "Augy" for short.

On behalf of the members and pledges at ΦAK, I hope you enjoyed this edition of the Newsreel and thank you for your continued support of the house.
Jason Holstege, editor